Adverse Effect of Power shortage on Protected Water Supply Schemes in Rural areas

678. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem being faced in rural areas of the country due to power shortage, affecting the operation of Protected Water Supply Schemes;

(b) whether it is a fact that RGNDWM is also facing the nagative impact of power shortage; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ease and solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) There is a general power shortage in the country and Rural Water Supply, alongwith other activities using power, is affected.

(c) The State Government are taking appropriate steps to reduce the gravity of the problem due to power shortage; and the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is supporting their efforts in this regard.

Potable Water in Maharashtra

679. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the current requirement of potable water in Maharashtra, urban areas vis-a-vis rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the requirement is being met in the urban and rural areas of the State, separately; and

(d) the measure Government propose to initiate to meet the full requirement of potable water of the State within a timeframe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Drinking water in Saurashtra region

680. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Acute drinking water shortage in Saurashtra District" which appeared in the Times of India on the 25th December, 1996;

(b) if so, whether Government have approached the State Government to have the first hand information in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Central Government to overcome the long term problem of the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The details are awaited from the State Government. On receipt of the details, further action on the same will be taken.

Power and functions entrusted to Zilla Parishads and Gram Panchayats

681. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the State Governments have entrusted the powers and functions to their respective Zilla Parishads and Gram Panchayats under the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, State-wise;